

WORKFORCE OBSERVATIONS FOR SOUTH CENTRAL WISCONSIN COUNTIES

October 2004



State of Wisconsin
Department of Workforce Development
Office of Economic Advisors

Mild deviations from seasonal trends

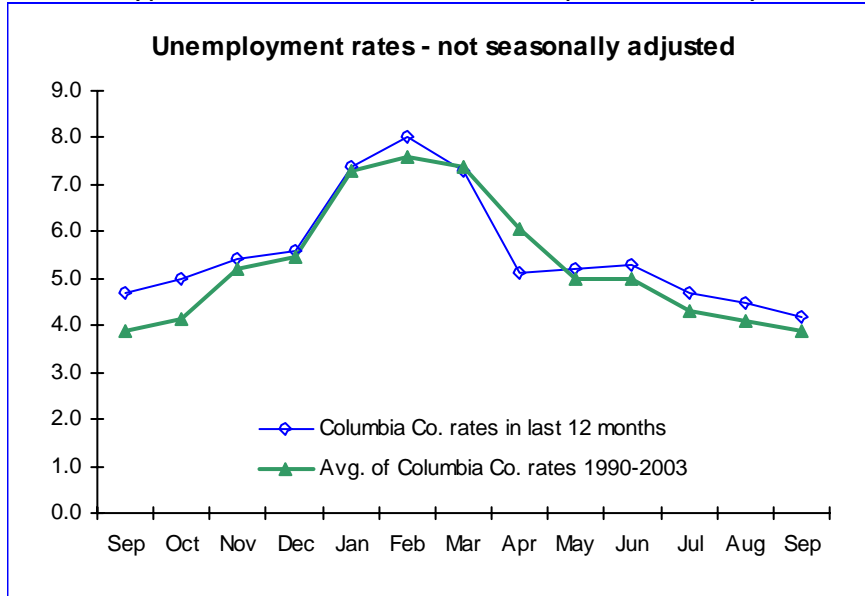
Except the anomalous estimates from March and April, **Columbia County's** unemployment rates have been 0.2 percent to 0.4 percent above typical levels for much of 2004. The September estimate came in 0.3 percent above the typical level, suggesting little or no change from recent trends. Total nonfarm employment estimates were further above year-ago levels than they had been since March, but a one-month up-tick, especially an unusually sharp one, may not be as meaningful as the April-through-August downward drift in the 12-month gain figures. Leisure & hospitality employment estimates are showing a smaller over-the-year gain than they have any month since January.

At 0.5 percent above the typical level, **Dane County's** September unemployment rate is closer to typical than much of the year, but no closer than April, July or August rates. Financial activities employment estimates were 4.2 percent

last August, leisure & hospitality employment estimates remain well above year-ago levels.

The unemployment rate in **Dodge County** is 0.9 percent above its typical September level. Only two months of the last twelve

(April and July, which were anomalously below-trend) saw rates closer to typical than September. Despite strong over-the-year gains in leisure & hospitality employment estimates from February through August, the September estimate is barely above the year-ago level. The September estimate for retail & wholesale trade employment was not as far above year-ago levels as July or August estimates, but was still further above than any other month in the last year.



Labor force estimates - not seasonally adjusted

	Wisconsin			South Central			Columbia			Dane		
	Sep 2004	1-month change	1-year change	Sep 2004	1-month change	1-year change	Sep 2004	1-month change	1-year change	Sep 2004	1-month change	1-year change
Civilian Labor Force**	3,099,800	-46,080	25,900	454,400	-8,910	1,050	28,900	-340	150	289,700	-3,970	1,630
Employed	2,973,300	-33,580	43,500	441,300	-7,290	2,300	27,700	-230	280	283,200	-3,650	2,400
Unemployed	126,500	-12,490	-17,570	13,100	-1,620	-1,230	1,210	-110	-130	6,500	-310	-810
Unemployment rate (%)	4.1	-0.3	-0.6	2.9	-0.3	-0.3	4.2	-0.3	-0.5	2.2	-0.1	-0.3

	Dodge			Jefferson			Marquette			Sauk		
	Sep 2004	1-month change	1-year change	Sep 2004	1-month change	1-year change	Sep 2004	1-month change	1-year change	Sep 2004	1-month change	1-year change
Civilian Labor Force**	48,600	-1,620	-90	42,300	-870	-500	7,000	-70	-40	38,100	-2,050	-100
Employed	46,500	-630	190	40,500	-720	-580	6,600	-60	70	36,800	-2,010	-110
Unemployed	2,000	-990	-280	1,780	-140	80	340	-10	-100	1,220	-50	10
Unemployment rate (%)	4.2	-1.8	-0.5	4.2	-0.3	0.2	4.9	-0.1	-1.4	3.2	0.0	0.0

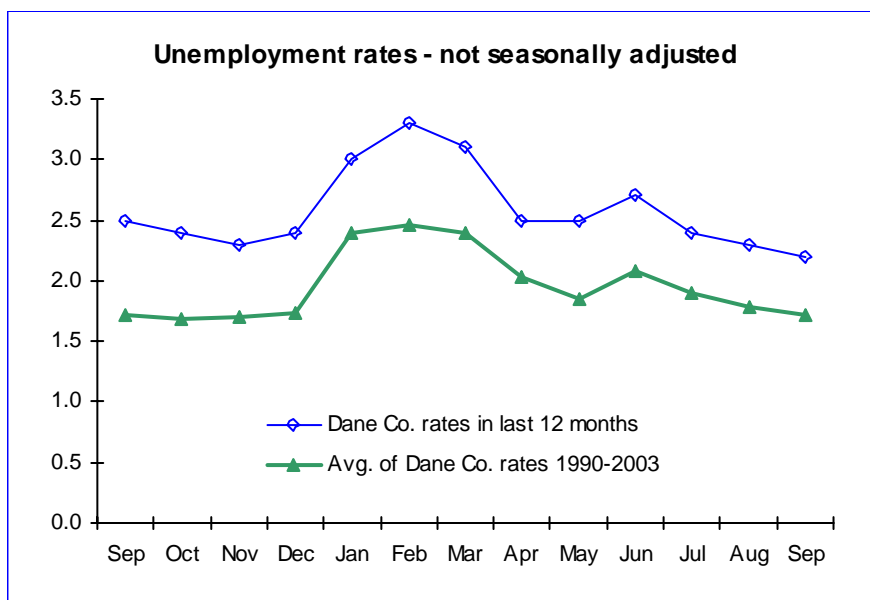
** Includes labor force participants residing in area. Estimates are **NOT** seasonally adjusted. Current month estimates are preliminary and subject to revision. Numbers 2,000 and greater are rounded to nearest 100. Numbers under 2,000 are rounded to nearest 10. Sub-units may not add to totals due to rounding. Calculations are based on unrounded numbers. Results are rounded. For more information call (608) 242-4885 or email dan.barroilhet@dwd.state.wi.us.

In **Jefferson County**, the unemployment rate was 0.9 percent above the typical September level. This looks high compared to rates from last September through this January and low compared to rates from this February through August. Total nonfarm employment estimates remain below year-ago levels, but less so than at any point in the last twelve months. Information, professional, business & other services employment estimates are further above year-ago levels than they have been at any time in the last 12 months. The rebound in this sector has been relatively consistent over the last year.

After swinging sharply between December and April, and **Marquette County's** unemployment rate appears to have settled around 0.2 percent to 0.4 percent above typical levels from June to September.

Total nonfarm employment estimates have hovered slightly above or slightly below year-ago levels for much of 2004. Construction employment estimates grew much more mildly this spring and summer than last.

Since May, **Sauk County** has seen unemployment rates that matched or came slightly below typical, and September's rate continued this trend by matching the typical September rate. Both the construction sector and the leisure & hospitality sector expect to see seasonal declines in the September employment estimates. The leisure & hospitality sector remains above year-ago levels, although not as far above as in July and August. Construction employment estimates were well above year-ago levels in April and slid well below year-ago levels since then.



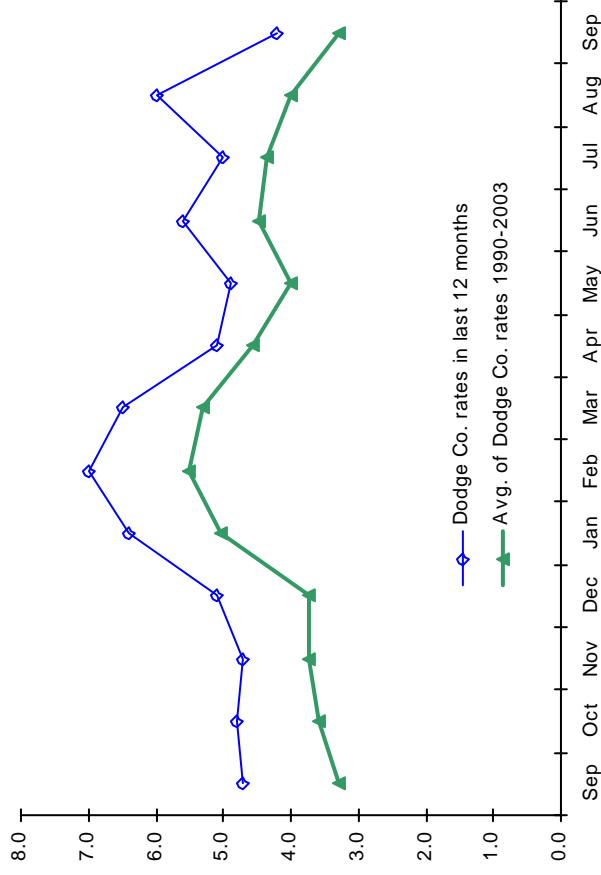
Employment by industry estimates - not seasonally adjusted

	Wisconsin			South Central			Columbia			Dane		
	Sep 2004	1-month change	1-year change	Sep 2004	1-month change	1-year change	Sep 2004	1-month change	1-year change	Sep 2004	1-month change	1-year change
Total jobs, all industries*	2,851,200	-3,200	52,900	434,000	-2,200	3,400	21,200	-10	270	301,100	-600	3,100
Const., min'g & nat. resources	137,600	-4,300	1,400	23,300	-420	650	1,210	-40	50	15,800	-200	700
Manufacturing	519,800	-5,200	12,600	59,900	-370	-920	4,800	-70	-80	27,600	-400	-100
Trade (w wholesale & retail)	442,000	-3,800	8,600	63,900	-90	210	3,600	-50	-80	42,900	400	200
Transport, Wrhsing, Utilities	110,000	3,700	2,100	10,900	330	-480	830	40	-50	7,100	-700	-800
Financial activities	161,600	-500	2,600	29,100	-640	-800	700	0	90	25,000	-600	-1,000
Education & health services	380,100	4,900	10,200	44,600	-320	900	2,300	80	10	29,800	-300	600
Leisure & hospitality	259,200	-16,100	3,300	43,100	-2,800	2,300	2,500	-210	70	26,100	-400	1,500
Info, prof, bus. & other srvcs	444,900	-3,100	13,200	67,500	-610	1,880	1,710	-50	80	53,600	-400	1,700
Government	396,000	21,200	-1,100	91,800	2,800	-350	3,600	280	180	73,200	1,100	-100

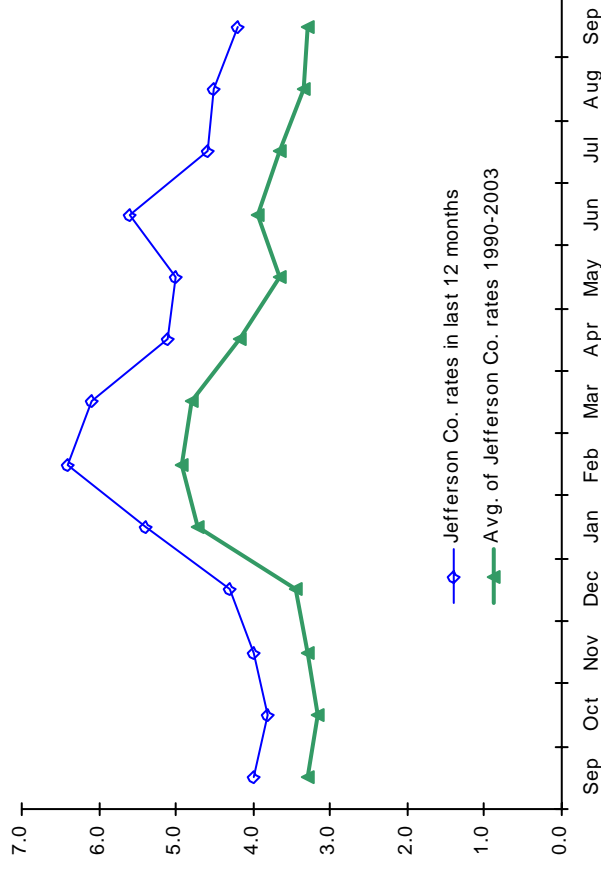
	Dodge			Jefferson			Marquette			Sauk		
	Sep 2004	1-month change	1-year change	Sep 2004	1-month change	1-year change	Sep 2004	1-month change	1-year change	Sep 2004	1-month change	1-year change
Total jobs, all industries*	34,900	10	120	35,400	-190	-40	4,000	170	0	37,500	-1,530	-80
Const., min'g & nat. resources	2,300	-20	10	1,430	-50	50	250	-10	-90	2,300	-100	-80
Manufacturing	10,700	170	-210	8,800	-190	-580	1,230	0	20	6,800	120	30
Trade (w wholesale & retail)	4,200	-110	260	6,000	-270	20	480	-10	0	6,600	-50	-200
Transport, Wrhsing, Utilities	1,000	40	10	1,210	50	-10	60	0	0	700	10	-40
Financial activities	840	-20	10	950	0	20	150	0	10	1,490	-20	80
Education & health services	4,300	-30	180	4,600	-40	10	300	0	10	3,300	-30	80
Leisure & hospitality	2,600	-140	50	3,600	0	230	470	-20	20	7,900	-2,000	430
Info, prof, bus. & other srvcs	3,600	-20	-50	5,100	-50	390	230	0	20	3,200	-100	-260
Government	5,300	130	-150	3,800	380	-180	820	220	0	5,100	650	-110

*Includes jobs with employers in area. Estimates are NOT seasonally adjusted. Current month estimates are preliminary and subject to revision. Numbers 2,000 and greater are rounded to nearest 100. Numbers under 2,000 are rounded to nearest 10. Sub-units may not add to totals due to rounding. Calculations are based on unrounded numbers. Results are rounded. For more information call (608) 242-4885 or email dan.barroilhet@dwd.state.wi.us.

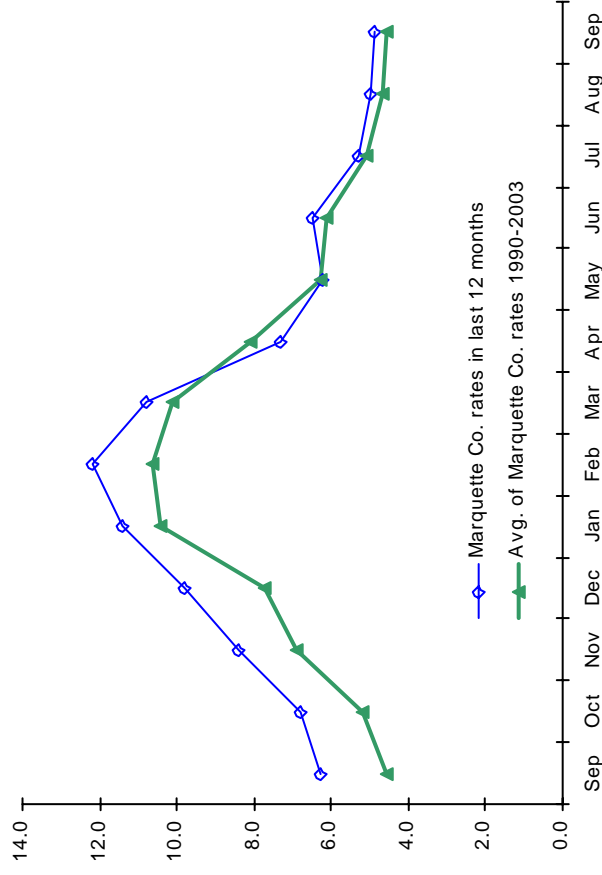
Unemployment rates - not seasonally adjusted



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